DC #4

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING MAY 17 THRU MAY 31

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V FOR VENDETTA
ten-issue maxi-series

ANIMAL MAN
Ongoing monthly series

TAILGUNNER JO
six-issue maxi-series

ANNUALS

PLUS . . .

An interview with Denys Cowan

Cover Of The Month
BATMAN #423

V . . . FOR VENDETTA!

The time is 1997. The place is Great Britain . . . and things have never been worse. It's a time of brooding darkness, chilling despair and oppressive tyranny.

The time for **V FOR VENDETTA**.

Who is the mysterious V? Is his wrath aimed at the fascist rulers gripping Britain in its iron grasp . . . or are his motives more complex than any reasonable person can hope to understand?

Welcome to the dark world of Alan Moore and David Lloyd's downbeat thriller, originally published in black and white in the British weekly comics magazine *Warrior*. Now, presented for the first time in this country, V FOR VENDETTA debuts in full color.

V FOR VENDETTA is a ten-issue Deluxe Format maxi-series, featuring all the original episodes from *Warrior* and, beginning with the eighth issue, all-new material and the long-awaited finale by series creators writer Alan Moore and artist David Lloyd. David will also be coloring V FOR VENDETTA for its Deluxe Format debut, as well as providing all-new covers.

V FOR VENDETTA.

Pray that you will never need him. *Suggested for Mature Readers.*

JESUS CHRIST! WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?!
WHAT WAS WHAT?
JUST BEFORE WE WENT INTO THE TUNNEL I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING UP ON THE BRIDGE.
I DUNNO... IT COULD HAVE BEEN RAGS CAUGHT ON A FENCE OR SOMETHING, I SUPPOSE.
HMMM.
...SO ANYWAY, WE'D BOTH HAD A FEW TACTLESS BY THAT TIME, AND PORKY SAYS TO ONE OF THESE LOCAL BINTS...THE ELDER GEL, I THINK IT WAS... HE SAYS...
...EXCUSE ME, MR.PROTHERO...
TED...DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING? A BANG ON THE ROOF OF THE TRAIN?
I SAY! WE'RE STOPPING! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, D'YOU THINK?
I DON'T... AY!! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
...OH BLOODY HELL...

ON THE PROWL WITH ANIMAL MAN

Buddy Baker is your average family man . . . who just happens to possess the power to absorb the characteristics of the entire animal kingdom. Before retiring from the super-hero game, he was known as **ANIMAL MAN** . . . The Man with Animal Powers.

Now Buddy is looking to get back in the game, maybe even join up with this Justice League International he's been hearing so much about. But does ANIMAL MAN have what it takes? Even with the powers and abilities of every animal on Earth at his disposal, can he strike a balance between man and the animal kingdom before it's too late?

British writer Grant Morrison, known for his critically acclaimed work on the British weekly *2000 A.D.*, makes his DC Comics debut with this reworking of a classic DC hero. Joining Grant on the monthly New Format ANIMAL MAN series is penciller Chas Truog. Brian Bolland will be providing the covers.

You've heard people say that it's a *jungle* out there.

Until ANIMAL MAN, you never knew just how savage it can get.

THE TWO WORLDS OF TAILGUNNER JO

Cyborg battles. Deadly market research. Strange strategic planning.

These are all part of the world of **TAILGUNNER JO**.

In a future time, the corporate world is going to go to war and they're going to start coming for your bodies . . . as well as your minds.

Take the case of Jo, a young girl whose father has been transformed into a cyborg. Now it's her turn, implanted as a tailgunner onto her cyborg father by Telemechus, the corporation that then took away her mother. She is forced to live in two worlds: one is an Alice in Wonderland-style fantasy realm, in which she's a fairy-tale princess within her father's brain. The other world is the harsh reality of savage corporate warfare—warfare that's destroying his mind.

TAILGUNNER JO is a six-issue, New Format mini-series written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Tom Artis and Ty Templeton. Each issue will bear the "Suggested for Mature Readers" label.

TAILGUNNER JO . . . it's stranger than you think.

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor
Julia Sabbagh, Designer

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ANNUAL EVENTS

The year's schedule of DC annuals continues this month with a very special event crossing over between three Deluxe Format annuals over the course of three weeks.

The story begins in **DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #1**, teaming Batman with The Question and Lady Shiva. It also introduces a deadly new version of The Penguin that will change your ideas of that once-cute little villain. In addition, Rā's Al Ghūl and Talia make their first appearance since BATMAN: THE SON OF THE DEMON. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Klaus Janson, it's only the first step on a long and complex journey.

Writer O'Neil continues the journey the following week in **GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #1**, as GREEN ARROW joins the trio from the first part to go up against the deadliest bowman alive in pursuit of Shiva's mysterious mission. Art is by Tom Artis and Timothy Dzon.

The cycle comes to its stunning conclusion in **THE QUESTION ANNUAL #1** as the Question and guest stars Batman and Green Arrow discover the ultimate truth behind Lady Shvia's mission. Produced by the regular QUESTION creative team of O'Neil, Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. *Suggested for Mature Readers.*

DETECTIVE® COMICS

GREEN ARROW®

The QUESTION™

FROM • THE EDITOR

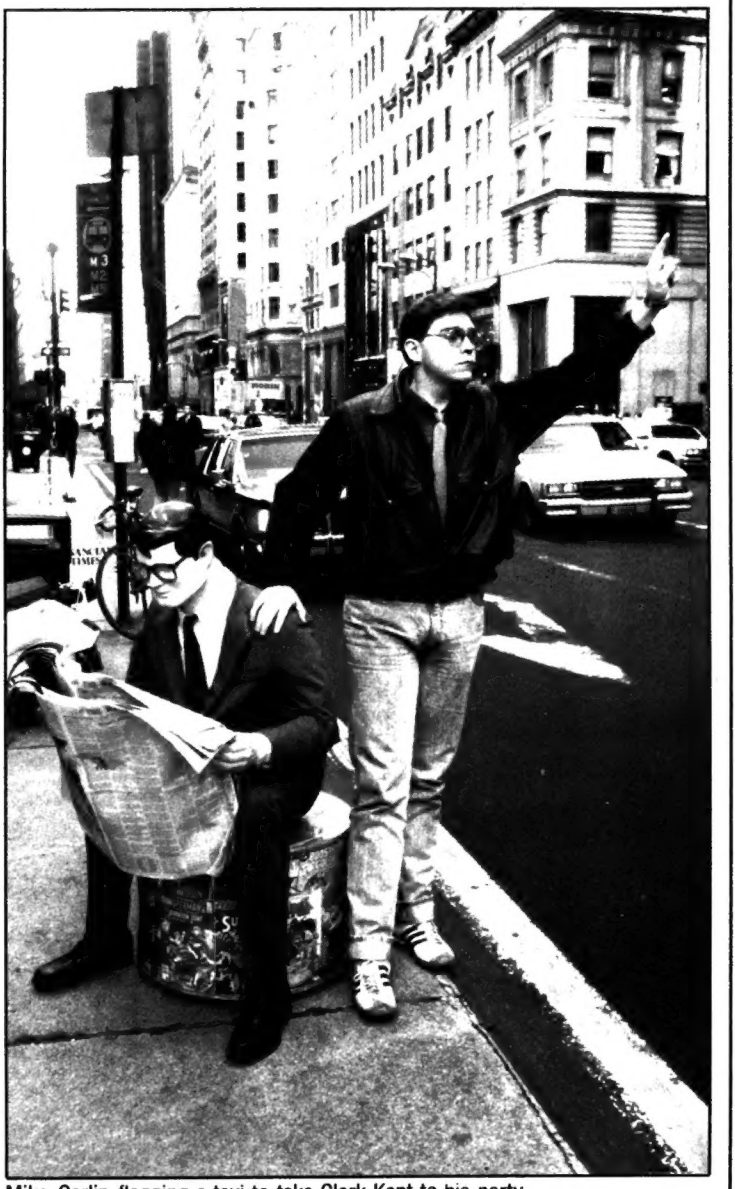
Every once in a while, an event takes place that really warms your heart. Superman's official 50th birthday party, held in New York City on February 26, 1988, was such an event.

There was free food—what party would be complete without that?—entertainment, memorabilia, artwork, an entryway decorated as a phone booth, a kryptonite tunnel and an entire section decorated like the Daily Planet offices. There were plenty of Superman people in attendance, including Julie Schwartz, Curt Swan, Jerry Ordway and Mike Carlin.

But most important, there were the children. All the months of preparation were worthwhile when we saw the faces of the children who attended the party. Spontaneously, they sat on the floor to watch the slide show of The Man of Steel. And the look of awe and admiration on their faces really took my breath away. They stared in wonder at the elements of Superman that we jaded folk sometimes take for granted: his ability to fly; his fight for Truth, Justice and the American Way; his endearing qualities as the mild-mannered Clark Kent.

For those of you who could not attend the Big Bash...

Peggy



Mike Carlin flagging a taxi to take Clark Kent to his party.

BOOKS SHIPPING MAY17

☐ **ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #607**
The Secret Six have the spotlight this week on the cover by Steve Lightle. Inside, their mission continues, written by Martin Pasko with art by Dan Spiegle. Also featured are Superman by Roger Stern, Curt Swan and John Beatty; Green Lantern, by Jim Owsley and Tod Smith; Wild Dog, by Max Allan Collins, Terry Beatty and John Nyberg; Deadman, by Mike Baron, Dan Jurgens and Tony DeZuniga; and Blackhawk, by Mike Grell, Rich Burchett and Pablo Marcos.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #607

☐ **CRIMSON AVENGER #4**
(of a four-issue mini-series)
The dynamite clock is ticking away for Lee Travis, while high above Manhattan, the Crimson has his final showdown with the Dark Cross and its mysterious leader. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and cover by Greg Brooks.

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #1**
There's nothing humorous about the Penguin anymore. He's new, improved, far deadlier than you ever thought possible . . . he's out to show the Batman just how serious he is. Guest starring Rā's Al Ghūl and Talia. Part 1 of the DETECTIVE COMICS/GREEN ARROW/QUESTION crossover. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art and cover by Klaus Janson. *Deluxe Format. Suggested for Mature Readers.*

☐ **FIRESTORM #75**
Is Martin Stein dead or alive? The answer to this astonishing question is revealed at last. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Joe Brozowski and Sam DeLaRosa.

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #17**
It started with the JLI going to depose the tyrannical ruler of Bialya, but they've run into a bigger problem . . . Queen Bee and her group of radioactive super-villains. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon.

☐ **OUTCASTS #12**
(of a twelve-issue maxi-series)
This is it! The ultimate fate of Big City is sealed as the Outcasts face Orcom and the Satan Brothers for the final time. Written by John Wagner and Alan Grant, with art by Cam Kennedy and Steve Montano. Cover by Kennedy. *Deluxe Format.*

☐ **THE QUESTION/BATMAN/GREEN ARROW Poster**
The Question . . . the blank-faced nemesis of corruption and evil in Hub City . . . and now the co-star of of this full-processed color poster, along with The Batman and Green Arrow, celebrating this month's DETECTIVE/QUESTION/GREEN ARROW ANNUALS crossover. Pencilled by Denys Cowan and painted by Bill Sienkiewicz.

☐ **V FOR VENDETTA #1**
(of a ten-issue maxi-series)
In post–World War III Britain, a chilling era of darkness and despair has gripped a populace under the iron rule of a fascist state. Who is the mysterious V and who will feel the wrath of his vengeance? Written by Alan Moore, with full-process color art and cover by David Lloyd. *Suggested for Mature Readers.*

☐ **WORLD OF METROPOLIS #2**
(of a four-issue mini-series)
Lois Lane is sweet sixteen, maybe too sweet to stand up to the evil machinations of millionaire Lex Luthor or to convince *Daily Planet* editor Perry White to hire her as a reporter. Written by John Byrne and pencilled by Winslow Mortimer. Cover by Byrne.

FIRESTORM #75

BOOKS SHIPPING MAY 24

☐ **ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #608**
Green Lantern takes to the cover, with art by Paul Smith. Blackhawk ends his first storyline this week (the feature will return after a short hiatus). Also featured are Superman, Wild Dog, Deadman and The Secret Six.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #608

☐ **BATMAN #423**
A lot of people wonder just who the Batman really is . . . and here are three very different and very true answers to that perplexing proposition. Written by Jim Starlin, pencilled by Dave Cockrum and inked by Mike DeCarlo.

☐ **GREEN ARROW #8**
Arrow continues his trek through the frozen wastes of Alaska to bust the tong-run drug ring that supplies dope to the entire Pacific coast. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Ed Barreto and Dick Giordano. Cover by Ed Hannigan. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

☐ **GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #1**
The DETECTIVE/GREEN ARROW/QUESTION crossover continues as Arrow does his part when he's called out by the most dangerous bowman alive. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Tom Artis and Timothy Dzon. Cover by Artis. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

☐ **HELLBLAZER #9**
Constantine is losing it . . . haunted by real and imagined foes across America and teetering on the very edge of personal disaster. Concludes next week in SWAMP THING #76. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by John Ridgway and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #50

Celebrating the Legion's 30th anniversary year in this special 50th issue . . . a tale of death, destruction and a surprising rebirth in the ultimate showdown with the Time Trapper. Written by Paul Levitz, pencilled by Keith Giffen (who returns this issue as regular penciller) and inked by Mike DeCarlo. Painted cover by Ken Steacy. *Deluxe Format.*

SECRET ORIGINS #30

We may be stretching it a bit thin with this month's lineup . . . first up is the secret origin of the Elongated Man, by Gerard Jones, Ty Templeton and Grant Miehm. Then we bounce into the story behind the *first* stretchable hero, Plastic Man, written by Roy Thomas and pencilled by Chuck Austen. Cover by Templeton.

SECRET ORIGINS #30

STAR TREK #54

Finnegan is back and Kirk is not at all pleased to see the practical joker from his past has been put in charge of the investigation into his near death . . . and that Bearclaw is Finnegan's prime suspect. Written by Peter David, with art by Gordon Purcell and Ricardo Villagran. Cover by Jerome Moore and Keith Wilson.

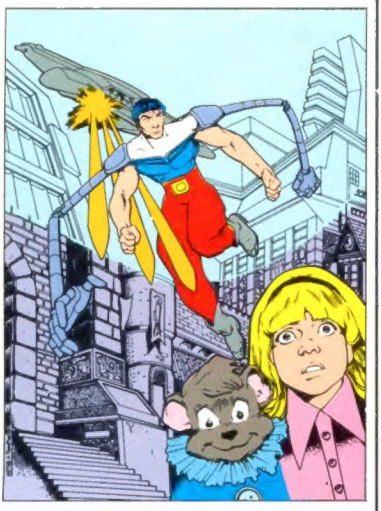
SUPERMAN #23

The Man of Steel travels to Ireland to look into the origin of the Silver Banshee in the hope that it will help him put a stop to her current murderous spree. Written and pencilled by John Byrne and inked by John Beatty. Cover by Byrne.

TAILGUNNER JO #1

(of a six-issue mini-series)

Which is the reality? Jo's life is caught between the fact of her transformation from human to cyborg tailgunner and the fantasy world in the cyborg brain. Written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Tom Artis and Ty Templeton. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*



TAILGUNNER JO #1

WHO'S WHO IN THE DC UNIVERSE UPDATE '88 #2

(of a four-issue mini-series)

The update of who and what's new in the DC Universe continues, with entries on Justice League International, Martian Manhunter, The Joker, Mr. Mxyzptlk, The Secret Six and more. The art is by Mark Badger, Tom Artis, Pat Broderick, John Byrne and others.

BOOKS SHIPPING MAY 31

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #609

The Black Canary by Sharon Wright, Randy DuBurke and Pablo Marcos enters the ACTION rotation with her own feature, an event spotlighted on the cover by Brian Bolland. Also, the first Wild Dog series concludes this week. Plus, the adventures of Superman, Green Lantern, Deadman and The Secret Six continue.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #609

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #444

The terrible transformation begins anew . . . and not even the Man of Steel can save an innocent soul from the insidious evil of Brainiac. Written by John Byrne and Jerry Ordway, pencilled by Ordway and inked by Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway.

ANIMAL MAN #1

Buddy Baker's just another family man . . . except for the ability to assume the qualities of any animal on Earth. Now he's trying to resume his career and in the process runs into a mutated horror that threatens the entire planet. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog. Cover by Brian Bolland. *New Format.*

ANIMAL MAN #1

THE DOOM PATROL #12

Negative Man regains his powers . . . but at what price? In space, the Doom Patrol fights to save the Earth from an invasion by Gargaux, while in Washington, DC, another person from the Patrol's past is revealed. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Erik Larsen and Gary Martin. Cover by Larsen.

FLASH GORDON #4

(of a nine-issue maxi-series)

Flash is in for a few surprises . . . on *top* of King Vultan of the Hawkmen having kidnapped Dale . . . and his agreement to help save Ming. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Bruce Patterson. Cover by Jurgens and Patterson. *New Format.*

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #47

Danny Chase raids the Titans' computers for facts about all its members, and their origins are revealed . . . except for one. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Kelley Jones and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Ken Steacy. *Deluxe Format.*

☐ **POWER OF THE ATOM # 2**
Unable to control his size-changing abilities, Ray Palmer seeks high-tech help at Ivy University . . . and winds up as a human guinea pig. Written by Roger Stern, with art and cover by Dwayne Turner and Keith S. Wilson.

POWER OF THE ATOM # 2

☐ **THE QUESTION ANNUAL #1**
The startling conclusion of the DETECTIVE COMICS/GREEN ARROW/ QUESTION crossover. The Batman and Green Arrow guest star with the Question as he discovers the truth behind Lady Shiva's mission. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. Cover by Cowan and Sienkewicz. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

☐ **THE SHADOW #14**
It started out as a solemn return to Shambala to bury their father . . . but a brief stopover at the Himalayan town called Malice may just force the Shadow's sons to change their plans. Written by Andrew Helfer, with art and cover by Kyle Baker. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

☐ **SILVERBLADE #11**
(of a twelve-issue maxi-series)
Silverblade is unable to resist the efforts of the bird-demon to "repossess" him . . . and the one thing that can release him may be out of his reach. Written by Cary Bates, with art and cover by Gene Colan and Steve Mitchell. *Deluxe Format.*

☐ **SWAMP THING #76**
It finally happens—the conception of the *new* Swamp Thing . . . and the revelation of what John Constantine and Abby have to do with it. Continued from HELLBLAZER #9. Written and pencilled by Rick Veitch and inked by Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

☐ **WARLORD #131**
The explosive conclusion to "Maddox's Revenge" as Travis Morgan and Maddox face off for the incredible climax in which the fate of a civilization hangs in the balance. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. Plus, this month's DC BONUS BOOK focuses on Jennifer Morgan in a story written by Steve Wilson, pencilled by Rob Liefeld and inked by Jeff Albrecht.

☐ **WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #5**
(of a seven-issue maxi-series)
The definitive look at the greatest heroes of the 30th century and their friends and foes continues, this issue focusing on heroes from Phantom Girl to Saturn Girl. Written by Barbara Randall, with art by Keith Giffen, Greg LaRocque and others. Cover by Ty Templeton.

WARLORD #131

people at WORK

DENYS COWAN

A lot of kids dream about breaking into comics, but with rare exceptions, most have to wait until they're a little older before they actually get the chance. Denys Cowan was one of those exceptions and, as his current work as penciller on THE QUESTION amply shows, his early start at the tender age of fifteen was richly deserved.

Denys was born January 30, 1960, in Jamaica, Queens, New York, and was raised by his grandparents, Bishop and Rhoda Joseph. ("Make sure you mention them," Denys insisted. "I owe them a lot and I want them to see their names in print.") He read comics when he was a kid and studied art as a student at New York's High School of Art and Design.

"I was still at Art and Design—I was fifteen at the time," Denys remembers—"when I got my first job in comics as assistant to Rich Buckler. This was 1975 or so, and Rich was pencilling the SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS then. There were a lot of dinosaurs and things in those stories, and I worked on backgrounds . . . but mostly I made coffee, swept the floor, sharpened pencils, things like that."

After his stint with Buckler, Denys spent time assisting artists Ron Wilson, Arvil Jones and Keith Pollard, with whom he shared a studio. School and work occupied the next couple of years, until he landed a spot as a summer intern at Continuity Associates, the well-known comics and advertising art studio run by Neal Adams. "I was lucky to be chosen at Continuity," says Denys. "I was working under Neal, which is an education in itself." He laughs, saying, "I made a lot of coffee and swept a lot of floors there, too, because Neal wouldn't let me touch any artwork until I'd been there a while. Then I started doing animatics and storyboards (for advertising presentations), some coloring and, finally, comics.

"Neal put me on staff after my internship was over, and I was working there when I got my first professional work on my own. It was a pin-up of the Hulk for Marvel. I waited a year and a half for that pin-up to be printed, and when it finally came out it was this tiny little two-inch-square illustration at the bottom of a text page."

Deny's next work was for DC. "My first real story with pages," he calls it. "It was a back-up story for Julie Schwartz, a regular feature at the time called 'Superman 2020.' I did a couple of those, as well as a bunch of short stories for some of the anthology books, like WEIRD WAR TALES and the other mystery books. After that I went back and forth between DC and Marvel, doing some back-up stories for Spider-Man, then back to DC for the Firestorm back feature in THE FLASH, and some covers. I did a lot of back-up stories in those days.

"My first full book was an issue of *Moon Knight*, which I did as a fill-in for Bill Sienkiewicz' run. That led to yet another back-up, for the same book, and then my own series, *Power Fist and Iron Man*, which I did for about a year. I also started work on a Black Panther mini-series, which is just now being published."

By the time he graduated from high school, Denys was already an experienced professional. "After that, I took off for about a year, just sort of taking it easy and living life before coming back into comics. I started by doing some special projects work for Andy Helfer at DC. Andy kind of rediscovered me when it was hard to get work, and I was doing these projects for him for almost a year before I got my first fill-in on a regular monthly comic, an issue of VIGILANTE."

From that point on, Denys was kept busy at DC. "I did a half-dozen or so issues of VIGILANTE, which was where I first collaborated with Rick Magyar, a couple of issues of V, some Batman stories and, soon after that, I was offered THE QUESTION. I guess that brings us up to modern history."

It was THE QUESTION that established Denys's reputation as a master of comic noir. "I was aware of the Question character, though not through the original Steve Ditko version that Charlton Comics published in the mid-1960s. I first saw the character as done by Alex Toth in Charlton *Bullseye* [a fanzine from the 1970s dedicated to the Charlton characters].

"I was impressed with Toth's work, and I read through the entire original series by Ditko when I got the assignment, but I decided to completely ignore what they had done before and establish my own look and style on the book. I respect Ditko tremendously and I love his art, but my Question is not his Question.

"It's great working with Denny O'Neil, Rick Magyar and Mike Gold. I think the writing on the book is wonderful and it's a total joy working on it. That's why I've just signed a contract to do THE QUESTION for a third year," Denys said. "I've learned a lot doing QUESTION. As part of the visual approach, I knew the material was much more intense and was going to take a more sophisticated approach. I've grown with the book, learning about storytelling and just doing a comic book in general. I've learned that what comics are about is storytelling and not about drawing pretty pictures. My first and only interest is to tell the story in the best and most easily understandable way I can."

As if doing a monthly book wasn't enough ("I couldn't do it without the help of my assistants, Pat Gabriele and Liz Pierce-Carlton," Denys says), there's also this month's QUESTION ANNUAL #1, a chapter in the QUESTION/BATMAN/GREEN ARROW crossover, not to mention the promotional poster for the event that Denys also pencilled. "The poster was inked by my friend, Bill Sienkiewicz, who also inks the covers for QUESTION. I love his stuff and it's hard to find a much better artist. Bill's one of my inspirations, along with Frank Miller, Milton Caniff, Joe Kubert, José Luís García-López and others too numerous to mention . . . but I thank them all very much."

At the moment, Denys isn't predicting what the future might hold for him. "Right now, all I hope is that readers continue enjoying my work . . . that's assuming, of course, they're enjoying it in the first place." Considering the attention and acclaim his current work on QUESTION has been receiving, it doesn't sound like he has much to worry about on that score.

SUPERMAN

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of SUPERMAN ANNUAL #1 (1960), the first Annual published.